

**National Geospatial Advisory Committee Webinar Meeting
June 9-10, 2020
Minutes**

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on June 9 and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on June 10, 2020. The meeting was held via webinar. In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the meeting was open to the public.

NGAC Members present:

Mark Reichardt, NGAC Chair
Sarah Battersby, NGAC Vice Chair
Douglas Adams
Frank Avila
Chad Baker
Byron Bluehorse
Gar Clarke
Garet Couch
Jack Dangermond
William Haneberg
Sanjay Kumar
Tony LaVoi
Roberta Lenczowski
Mark Meade
Siva Ravada
Felicia Retiz
Vasit Sagan
Amber Shultz
Cy Smith
Gary Thompson
Tim Trainor
May Yuan

Ivan DeLoatch, Executive Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee and Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the NGAC, and John Mahoney, Alternate DFO, were also in attendance

NGAC Members not present:

Mike Hussey

Other attendees:

Juanica Armstrong-Segar (USDA Office of Inspector General), Dierdre Bevington-Attardi (Census Bureau), John Byrd (National Society of Professional Surveyors), Pat Cummins (Esri), David Dreisigmeyer (DOC Office of Inspector General), Tricia Gibbons (LEAD Alliance), Susan Gidley (Universal Service Administrative Company), Travis Hardy (Dewberry), Rob Hoyler (TomTom), Jim Irvine (ArdentMC), Girish Joshi (Geospatial Media and Communications), Alan Leidner (NYC Geospatial Information Systems and Mapping Organization), Steve Lewis (US Department of Transportation), Lynda Liptrap (Census Bureau), Michelle Luna (GSA Office of Inspector General), Renata Malioneck (GSA Office of Inspector General), Edward O'Brien (Green International Affiliates, Inc.), Louis Olaoye (USDA Office of Inspector General),

Tim Petty (Department of the Interior), Meredith Richardson (Dept. of Commerce, Office of the Chief Data Officer), Ash Richter (In-Q-Tel), Lorna Schmid (FGDC), Pallavi Sidhu (GSA Office of Inspector General), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Vaishal Sheth (FGDC), Greg Snyder (USGS), Carrie Stokes (Agency for International Development), Scott Ward (DOE Office of Inspector General), Ethan Weikel (USGS), John Wertman (Esri)

Tuesday, June 9, 2020 NGAC Public Meeting

Welcome & Introductions

Mark Reichardt, NGAC Chair, called the public meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed members and attendees. Member and attendee introductions were made. The Chair provided an overview of the agenda for the first day.

Review and Adoption of Minutes

The draft minutes of the December 2019 NGAC meeting were reviewed, and the Chair called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the December 4-5, 2019 NGAC meeting.

Leadership Dialogue

Tim Petty, FGDC Chair, provided an update on recent FGDC activities. He welcomed the new and returning NGAC members and noted that he was very interested to hear about the progress the committee had made since the last meeting. Dr. Petty discussed the following topics:

- Revising OMB Circular A-16. FGDC is awaiting OMB's final review of the new draft Circular. The new A-16 will provide updated guidance more aligned with the requirements of the GDA.
- 2020 Report to Congress. The initial GDA report to Congress, which will be due in October 2020, and it will be an important opportunity to communicate the importance of geospatial programs. He noted that the NGAC's input into these processes will be very helpful.
- NSDI Strategic Plan. He noted that the draft NSDI plan to the NGAC and the FGDC agencies for review and comment. The strategic plan will serve as a driver for several parts of the GDA. He noted that the FGDC appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with the NGAC in the development of this important document, and we look forward to a productive discussion today. We will look to the NGAC to continue providing input in the development of the new NSDI strategy.
- Partnerships. Dr. Petty discussed the importance of partnerships and the role the NGAC can play in supporting and facilitating partnerships.

FGDC Report

Ivan DeLoatch provided an update on recent FGDC activities, and Tony LaVoi provided an update on GDA implementation activities. Highlights included the following:

FGDC Steering Committee meeting

- Overview of the agenda for the June 12 FGDC Steering Committee meeting

GDA planning

- GDA Roadmap for 2020 and 2021 implementation activities

- Revision of OMB Circular A-16
- National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan
- Opportunities for engagement

GDA reports

- Covered Agency Reports
- National Geospatial Data Asset / Lead Covered Agency Reports
- FGDC Report to Congress

Overview of timeline

- June: Finalize Covered Agency self-assessment survey document
- July-September: Develop and test online tool using GeoPlatform & Survey123
- October-December: Covered Agencies complete self-assessment measuring performance during FY20; Theme Leads (Lead Covered Agencies) complete similar assessment
- January-March: FGDC develops summary reports on agency and theme performance per GDA requirements

NSDI Strategic Plan Session

John Mahoney provided an overview of the NSDI strategic planning process, including the current timeline and next steps.

May Yuan provided a report on the recent activities of the NGAC NSDI subcommittee. The subcommittee developed draft vision, mission and guiding principle sections for the NSDI strategic plan, and has worked with the FGDC NSDI Core Team to provide ongoing input into the development of the strategic plan. The draft vision, mission, and guiding principles, which have been incorporated into the are summarized in the subcommittee's draft paper, "Recommendations on the 2020 NSDI Strategic Plan." Following discussion, the NAC agreed on the following actions:

DECISION: The NGAC approved the paper, "Recommendations on the 2020 NSDI Strategic Plan."

ACTION: The subcommittee will continue to collaborate with the FGDC NSDI Core Team to provide input into the development of the new NSDI strategic plan.

Carrie Stokes of the U.S. Agency for International Development, updated the NGAC on the activities of the FGDC NSDI Core Team and the current status of the NSDI plan. She discussed the NSDI Leaders Forum meetings, which have brought together leaders from national geospatial organizations to gather input for the plan. She also discussed the results of the initial round of comments on the draft NSDI plan, which was distributed to the FGDC and the NGAC for review in May 2020. The team received 110 comments from 25 FGDC reps/NGAC members

Subcommittee Work Sessions

The NGAC subcommittees met in breakout groups to continue work on their study topics.

Adjournment

Day 1 of the meeting concluded at the end of the subcommittee breakout sessions at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 NGAC Public Meeting

Start-up

Sarah Battersby, NGAC Vice Chair, welcomed NGAC members to the second day of the meeting and provided a brief overview of the agenda. She offered her thoughts on redefining the NSDI. She encouraged the NGAC members to think about the appropriate model for the NSDI moving into the future.

Recognition

NGAC and FGDC leadership provided recognition for Tricia Gibbons. Ms. Gibbons has supported the FGDC and the NGAC in multiple capacities for many years, and has provided outstanding facilitation and meeting support for the NGAC since its inception. Mark Reichardt presented a letter of appreciation signed by each of the previous NGAC Chairs. Ivan DeLoatch and John Mahoney both thanked Ms. Gibbons on behalf of FGDC for her many years of exemplary service.

Cultural & Historical Geospatial Resources Subcommittee

Garet Couch provided an update on the subcommittee's activities. He noted that NGAC and FGDC leadership provided a briefing for NPS leadership on the recommendations in the subcommittee's report, which was adopted by the NGAC in September. He noted that a second briefing for the FGDC Cultural Resources Subcommittee would be held during the summer. He also provided a brief update on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP's) Digital Information Task Force, which developed a report and recommendations on how access to digital and geospatial information can be improved to inform Federal project planning. He noted that the report includes multiple references to the NGAC paper.

ACTION: The subcommittee chair will work with FGDC staff to plan briefings and dialogue on the paper for the NPS, the FGDC Cultural Resources Subcommittee agencies and other key stakeholders.

Landsat Advisory Group

Frank Avila provided an overview of the recent activities of the Landsat Advisory Group (LAG). He noted that the LAG includes both NGAC members and other members with subject matter expertise in remote sensing programs. The LAG membership was updated in early 2020, and now includes the following members:

NGAC Members:

Frank Avila (LAG Chair)
Roberta Lenczowski (LAG Vice-Chair)
May Yuan

Non-NGAC Members:

Mariel Borowitz (Georgia Institute of Technology)
Steven Brumby (National Geographic Society)
Keith Masback (Plum Run, LLC)
Anne Hale Miglarese (Radiant Earth Foundation)
Robbie Schingler (Planet Labs)
Walter Scott (Maxar)

Mr. Avila discussed the 2020 guidance to the LAG developed by the USGS. He noted that the LAG is working on the three tasks outlined in the guidance, and will develop final products by the end of 2020.

ACTION: The LAG will continue working on the tasks outlined in the 2020 guidance provided by the USGS National Land Imaging Program:

- **Task 1:** Report on Landsat data as a community standard for data calibration (target completion: October 2020)
- **Task 2:** Formulating a Big Data Science challenge for land imaging time-series data (target completion: October 2020)
- **Task 3:** Modernized interpretation of the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992 (target completion: December 2020)

Public-Private Partnerships Subcommittee

Mark Reichardt provided an update on the subcommittee's activities. He noted that the subcommittee's purpose is to assess geospatial data availability and trends by government and industry, examine partnership use cases to identify goals, benefits, and cautionary lessons, and to identify potential areas of collaboration for the NSDI. The group is developing recommendations to improve understanding and decision making for public sector policymakers and program managers, as well as for private-sector organizations, academia, and the general public.

He noted that the subcommittee is developing use cases, so if members have examples or potential use cases to share, please do. The subcommittee members plan to participate in upcoming meetings and conferences to increase understanding of PPPs. The subcommittee plans to have a draft report for consideration by the NGAC in October 2020.

ACTION: The subcommittee will continue meeting on a bi-weekly basis. The subcommittee will provide a draft recommendations paper to the NGAC in October, and seek final approval at the December NGAC meeting.

Congressional Report Subcommittee

Byron Bluehorse provided an update on the activities of the NGAC Congressional Report Subcommittee. The Congressional Report Subcommittee has developed a set of use cases to support the FGDC GDA report to Congress. Many NGAC members provided comments on the initial draft versions of these use cases. Following consideration and discussion of the use cases, the NGAC made the following decision:

DECISION: The NGAC approved the following use case papers, pending minor editorial changes:

- Addressing the Opioid Crisis
- Improving Foster Care Outcomes
- NC Flood Mapping Program
- Road Maintenance
- Successful 2020 Census Enabled with Geospatial Tools
- Summary of 2020 NGAC Use Cases

The NGAC further considered the draft NGAC resolution that was discussed on Day 1 of the meeting. Following discussion of the resolution, the NGAC agreed on the following decision:

DECISION: The NGAC approved the following resolution:

“The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) is encouraged by the progress the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) community is making in implementing the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA). The NGAC has provided initial comments on GDA implementation through its paper, “Initial Comments on Geospatial Data Act Implementation” (May 2019), and through ongoing inputs to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) strategic plan and the FGDC’s GDA biennial report to Congress.

The NGAC resolves that:

1. Given the vital and growing role that integrated geospatial information and technology plays in our society, ***the NGAC strongly supports the GDA and believes it to be a comprehensive approach and roadmap for advancing the NSDI.***
2. Given that the GDA planning and reporting requirements are considerable and highly complex, ***the NGAC recommends streamlining of the reporting processes to ensure focused, efficient, and consistent reporting across government.***
3. Given the NGAC’s May 2019 Comments on the GDA, the NGAC believes the FGDC community does not have sufficient resources, either within the FGDC Office of Secretariat or within FGDC covered agencies, to adequately meet the implementation requirements of the GDA. This lack of resources puts successful implementation of the GDA at significant risk. ***Specifically, NGAC recommends that the FGDC work with the Office of Management and Budget to ensure adequate resources are made available to the FGDC and covered agencies to:***
 - a. Accomplish the coordination, planning, communication, reporting, and collaboration duties of FGDC as required by the GDA in Sections 753(c) and 755(c);
 - b. Enable lead covered agencies to provide the leadership, coordination, and management required in Section 756(b) of the GDA to advance nationwide development, maintenance, and open accessibility of the NGDA data themes for all organizations and the public, through partnerships with all appropriate stakeholders;
 - c. Transform interagency service delivery collaboration to take advantage of the most efficient and effective technologies for providing access to integrated geospatial data from all appropriate NSDI stakeholders, as required in Section 758 of the GDA;
 - d. Strengthen the content, quality, data management, and service delivery for each of the NGDA data themes by responsible covered agencies, as required in Sections 756 and 759 of the GDA.”

ACTION: The subcommittee will continue to collaborate with the FGDC team to provide input into the development of the GDA Report to Congress

GDA Report to Congress Session

Mr. DeLoatch noted that FGDC staff has had a series of discussions with FGDC and DOI leadership, congressional affairs staff, and OMB about the approach and timing of the report to Congress. FGDC is proposing a two-phase approach – with a high-level GDA report being delivered to Congress this fall,

followed by a more detailed GDA reporting appendix which will be completed and transmitted to Congress early next year. He also discussed challenges in fulfilling the reporting requirements, including:

- GDA includes extensive reporting involving agency, OMB, Congressional, Inspector General, NGAC, and FGDC requirements.
- There are interdependencies between many of these reports, including requirements for engagement with non-Federal entities, the NGAC, and users of geospatial data.
- GDA did not include additional resources to support the additional management and reporting requirements, changes in governance, or additional activities required for GDA implementation.
- The FGDC Office of the Secretariat does not have staff or contract resources to fully support the GDA's reporting & coordination requirements. Additionally, FGDC agencies are meeting the new GDA requirements using existing agency resources, while also supporting the FGDC-led enterprise GDA planning & reporting activities.

The NGAC discussed these topics and expressed the desire to support FGDC's activities and remain engaged in the GDA reporting process. Mr. DeLoatch noted that a draft version of the Congressional report will be provided to the NGAC for review and comment in Fall 2020, prior to submission to Congress.

Public Comment

Steve Lewis (U.S. Department of Transportation). Mr. Lewis provided an update on the National Address Database (NAD). He noted that Release 4 of the NAD is pending and will include data from Texas data. He also noted that FEMA is interested in a review Federal policy regarding address data and PII.

Alan Leidner (NYC Geospatial Information Systems and Mapping Organization). Mr. Leidner provided comments on New York's response to the COVID -19 pandemic. He noted the critical benefits of using GIS-based geocoding and locating systems offer the opportunity to help control the COVID-19 pandemic, using approaches including contact tracing combined with smart phone-based proximity data.

Geospatial Community Response to COVID 19

Sarah Battersby led a discussion regarding the geospatial community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion touched on key questions including:

- Role of FGDC and NGAC?
- How to support the geospatial community of practice?
- What actions to we need to take?
- Are there follow-up sessions we need to move forward?

Key points included the following:

- Management and governance around geospatial data
- Guidance from regional and state leadership
- Use of dashboards
- Utilization of HIFLD data
- Health orgs in not sharing data at local levels
- HIPPA issues
- Timely data sharing with Tribal governments

- Integration of geospatial data governance practices
- Legal and policy issues

Following the discussion, the NGAC agreed on the following action:

ACTION: The NGAC established a team to explore and scope possible NGAC engagement related to geospatial support for COVID 19 response, leveraging feedback from a potential seminar/workshop in Summer 2020.

Meeting Wrap-up & Next Steps

The Chair reviewed and summarized the meeting actions. Mr. Reichardt thanked the members for their work and dedication to the group. The next NGAC meeting will be held in October 2020.

ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Mr. Mark Reichardt, Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

Mr. Ivan DeLoatch, Designated Federal Officer, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

These minutes will be formally considered by the Committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting

Note – these minutes were approved by the NGAC on October 27, 2020

Summary of Presentations and Handouts

The following is a list of the presentations and handouts from the meeting. These meeting materials are posted along with the minutes at https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/june-2020/index_html

FGDC Report

- FGDC Update

NSDI Strategic Plan Initiative

- NSDI Strategic Planning Presentation
- NGAC Paper: Recommendations on the 2020 NSDI Strategic Plan

Cultural & Historical Geospatial Resources Subcommittee

- Cultural & Historical Geospatial Resources Subcommittee Update

Landsat Advisory Group

- Landsat Advisory Group Update

Public-Private Partnerships Subcommittee

- Public-Private Partnerships Subcommittee Update

GDA Congressional Report Subcommittee

- Congressional Report Subcommittee Update
- NGAC Use Case: Addressing the Opioid Crisis
- NGAC Use Case: Improving Foster Care Outcomes
- NGAC Use Case: North Carolina Flood Mapping Program
- NGAC Use Case: Road Maintenance
- NGAC Use Case: Successful 2020 Census Enabled with Geospatial Tools
- Summary of 2020 NGAC Use Cases

GDA Report to Congress

- GDA Report to Congress Presentation

NGAC Resolution on the Geospatial Data Act

- NGAC Resolution on the Geospatial Data Act